MEXICON 6 THE PARTY

20 - 22 May 1994
Hertfordpark Hotel
Stevenage

PROGRAMME SHEET

Welcome to Mexicon 6 - The Party; the con that isn't a con, but a celebration of many of the fun things about Mexicons Past.

MEALS

Breakfast in the Village Restaurant

Saturday	7 a.m. - 10 a.m.
Sunday	8 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Bar snacks will be available at the following times:

Friday	6.30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday	Lunch and also in the evening if there is sufficient demand Late night snacks will be served in the Knebworth Suite
Sunday	Buffet Lunch in the main restaurants, complete with golden oldies of the radio

THE BAR

The hotel bar will be open till LATE!! This means whilst there are enough people still buying drinks, the bar will stay open. So if you want to drink into the early hours, it's up to you to keep the bar staff busy. On Saturday evening, we will have the Knebworth bar open which will be for con members only.

Drinks

The bar serves Worthington Best Bitter, Tennant's Pilsner and Tennant's Extra. For technical reasons there is no draught Guinness or Real Ale. The hotel has specially laid on for the convention draught Guinness in cans and, for those of you who don't feel a Mexicon can exist without Mexican lager, there will be a limited amount of Sol (but don't expect it to be cheap!).

If you can't survive the weekend without a pint of Riggley's Old Piddley or Nobby's Prize Ale or some equally unlikely brew, there's a list of the local pubs on the back page - but remember, this is Stevenage!

Free drinks

There is a Gollancz Book Launch on Saturday at 6 p.m.
Keep your gastric juices in trim with an Ameringen Special late on Saturday night - his special recipe for Punch! Tea-totallers beware!

FRIDAY 20th

17.00 Registration desk opens

Go and collect your membership pack and answer a few simple questions.

21.15 - 21.30 Welcome

The fun officially starts here.

21.30 - 22.30 Censorship 10 years on – better or worse?

Iain Banks, Roz Kaveney and Paul Barnett
Have the forces of authority further stifled freedom of artistic expression or are we just being better protected from the forces of evil?

SATURDAY 21st

11.00 - 11.30 The Ultra Quiz Round 2

Did you pass the test at the registration desk? If so this is your next challenge as you and your team are faced with a logistical problem!

12.00 - 13.00 Choice Sleaze

Iain Sinclair, Colin Greenland and Maureen Speller
Has the SF community, in its search for establishment credibility, neglected its base in the underground and the underworld? Is the community's future with the great and the good and Doris Lessing, or the guttersnipes and Derek Raymond?

15.00 - 15.15 Mexicon Memories

A selection of images from Mexicons Past to remind you of what fun it all was.

15.15 - 17.00 The Mexicon Debate

Has Mexicon had its day? Greg Pickersgill thinks that somewhere along the road it has lost its way whilst Colin Harris has other ideas. Come and add your voice to the discussion and help to shape the future.

Chaired by Eve Harvey.

18.00 - 19.00 Book Launch

Gollancz presents a book launch party for Gwyneth Jones.

20.30 - 21.00 Ultra Quiz Round 3

The survivors of Round 2 face the University Challenge. Can Scumbag College beat The Upperclass Twits?

21.30 - 22.30 Live Deadloss Visions

Chris Priest and Dave Langford present a late-night entertainment.

23.00 - late The People's Disco

Bop 'til you drop and try a glass of Ameringen Special Punch.

SUNDAY 22nd

11.30 - 12.15 Will E-Mail be the death of the paper-based fanzine, and does it matter?

Greg Pickersgill, Lilian Edwards and Abigail Frost discuss the new future (?) for the fanzine.

12.30 onwards Fan Fund Auction

Got any money left? Come and buy some cheap old paperbacks or yellowing fanzines and help support a fan fund Auctioneers: Brian Ameringen and Greg Pickersgill.

14.45 - 15.45 The Death of SF?

John Jarrold rants & raves in a small box, whilst Paul Kincaid, David Garnett and whoever else we can pressgang tear him to pieces.

16.00 - 16.15 Farewell.

At last we can all go home and try to be normal again.

OUT AND ABOUT

Stevenage is a schizophrenic town - the new town doesn't bear thinking about, but the old town has a certain charm. In the new town you'll find all the old favourites in the shopping line such as Dixons, WH Smith, C&A, Tesco, M&S and so on. No restaurants of note unless you're a McDonalds freak. But there is the indoor market with a nice little Indian food & spice stall, and there's the outdoor market just 200 yards from the hotel.

The Old Town

Find the old town by using the bridge behind Tesco. Continue straight along the road when you get off the bridge and this turns into the High Street. About a 10-15 minute walk.

Restaurants

The choice is either Indian or Chinese, but all pretty good (well, we've tried the Chinese, the Indians look OK). The restaurants are all along the High Street in the Old Town and are listed in the order in which you reach them from the hotel. The Indian restaurants all have similar prices, for example the meat rogan varies between £3.80 and £4.10, tandoori chicken can be found for around £4.95.

Dew Drop Inn	Looks like a converted café but offers an OK standard of Chinese. Set menus start at £12, business lunch on Saturdays for £5.80.
Mohan Tandoori	No, this one's not Chinese. Looks reasonable from the outside, as does the
Bombay	which is just across the road.
The Jade Garden	offers a rather more up-market, somewhat OTT decor but surprisingly is not that much more expensive than the Dew Drop. The set menus start from £12.80.

And, finally, there's the

Taj Mahal	which isn't Chinese either.

Public Houses

The High Street has a generous smattering of real-ale pubs, all of which are Greene King. The first one you come to is The Chequers. Skip the Coach and Horses, of which the CAMRA guide says, "very loud disco music; without ear defenders nobody has got close enough to the bar to see what beers are on". The Red Lion and the White Lion . . . If you wish to escape from the terror of the Greene King, see John and if you're really nice he'll show you his CAMRA guide. You have to be very, very nice for him to open it, however.

Bookshops

Well, there's only one that we've noticed, although there may be more. John can't remember the name, but he was combining it with the pubs field trip and they refused to sell him a pint. He thinks it's roughly in the area of the Red Lion.